the same subscriber. For subscriber, having more than one connection at the same address, the number of directories are restricted to 50% of Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) with maximum of ten copies.

(c) Telephone directories are published at regular intervals by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL). However, the delay in printing of some directories is on account of.

(i) Default by contractor.

(ii) Non-availability x>f contractors.

(d) and (e) Any extra copy required by any subscriber over and above the prescribed limit are charged at the rates determined by the field units.

Department of Posts' new agenda

1198. SHRI C. P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts has formulated new agenda in its operation to raise productivity and lower costs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any MoU has been signed with La poste of France and Emirates Post in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the step proposed to be taken for corporatisation of postal services in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The Department has been trying to computerize its operations with a view to providing a more efficient and cost effective service. A total of 1666 post offices have already been computerised as -on 31.3.2001. A total of 150 high speed VSATs have been

installed and the transmission of the entire money order traffic through the VSAT network is underway.

(c) and (d) A Memorandum of Understanding with La Poste of France and Emirates posts has been signed in the areas of:

(i) Up-gradation of postal equipment including stamps and seals;

(ii) Assistance in the development of electronics data interchange and use of telematics in Postal Services;

(iii) Assistance in designing marketing strategies and product development;

(iv) Improving quality of International Mail Services between the two countries;

(v) Development of philately and related areas;

(vi) Assistance in development and up-gradation of Human Resources of operational managerial staff; and

(vii) Improvement of the exchange between two countries relating to products with high added value (products with time certain guarantee, hybrid mail).

EMIRATES POSTS

(i) Joint Marketing of EMS and Express Parcel Post;

(ii) Time certain delivery of EMS and Express Parcel Post;

(iii) Establishment of Dubai as a hub for all postal mails including EMS and Express Parcel Post emanating from India meant for Gulf Countries; and

(iv) Establishment of a hub in India for all Postal mails including EMS and Express Parcel Post emanating from UAE for India and its neighbouring countries.

(e) There is no proposal at present to corporatise the postal services.